

August 6,2002

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES HISD BUS "NO IDLE" POLICY

The contribution of engine exhaust emissions to the air quality and associated health impact of people, particularly children in the Houston/Galveston area is an issue that the HISD Transportation Department recognizes and is one we CAN do something about:

**Effective immediately**, the following "**NO IDLE**" Policy is in effect for all HISD school buses.

- **Route/Trip Departure.** Buses are to be started *only long enough* before route/trip departure to allow for completion of pre-trip inspection. **BUSES ARE NOT TO BE STARTED AND LEFT UNATTENDED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** nor are they to be allowed to run for excessive times beyond what is necessary to complete the pre-trip.
- **Upon arrival at campus or other destination:** *Engines are to be turned off (this includes field trip locations)* unless there is a special needs student on board with a documented requirement for A/C when outside temperatures indicate use of A/C. Engines shall **always** be turned off when students are loading and unloading at a campus or other group boarding location (not a bus stop on a route) to reduce the exposure of students to unnecessary exhaust emissions.
- **Upon return to the terminal.** The bus may be idled only long enough for the driver to complete the post-trip inside bus inspection that is required to discover the presence of any remaining children or lost articles.
- **Cold Weather Exception** - when the temperature at AM route departure time is below freezing, and upon approval by the General Manager or Assistant General Manager of Transportation, shop personnel may still start buses and allow them to warm up and address "no start" issues prior to route departure times.

Bonnie J. Russell, General Manager  
Transportation Services